

REMARKS

The present application was filed on January 31, 2001 with claims 1-28. Claims 12 and 21 have been canceled and claims 1-11, 13-20 and 22-28 remain pending. Claims 1, 15 and 23 are independent claims.

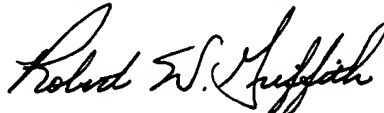
In the outstanding Office Action dated May 6, 2005, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 1, 3, 4 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,940,118 to Van Schyndel (hereinafter "Van Schyndel"); (ii) rejected claims 2, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Schyndel in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,273 to Lemelson et al. (hereinafter "Lemelson"); (iii) rejected claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Schyndel in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,593,956 to Potts et al. (hereinafter "Potts"); (iv) rejected claims 9-11 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Schyndel in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,250 to Hein et al. (hereinafter "Hein"); and (v) rejected claims 13, 14 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Schyndel in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,240,392 to Butnaru et al. (hereinafter "Butnaru").

Applicants acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 12, 21 and 23-28.

In response to the Office Action, the allowable subject matter of claims 12 and 21 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 15 in an effort to expedite the application through to issuance. Claims 12 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice.

It is believed that the claims of the application as now presented, i.e., claims 1-11, 13-20 and 22-28, are patentably distinct over the art of record and are in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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